



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Rickey D. Hart  
Serial No.: 10/623,884  
Filing Date: 07/21/2003  
Title: SUTURE GRASPING DEVICE  
Group Art Unit: 3731  
Examiner: Michael H. Thaler  
Attorney's Docket No.: INNO-4 CON 8

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December 22, 2005

(DATE OF DEPOSIT)

Margaret M. Slezak

(NAME OF ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE)

December 22, 2005

(DATE OF SIGNATURE)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits documents and information which may be considered material to the examination of this application. These documents and information are listed on the accompanying forms.

Copies of documents 1-18, which are listed on the accompanying form, PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), have not been submitted since submission of copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent applications is no longer required under 37 CFR 1.98.

Copies of documents 19-20, which are also listed on PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), are enclosed herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that these documents be fully considered by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office during the examination of this application and printed on any patent which may issue on this application. Applicant also respectfully requests that a copy of PTO/SB/08A (substitute for Form PTO-1449) (one page), submitted herewith, as considered and initialed by the Examiner, be returned to the undersigned with the next communication.

It is believed that this disclosure complies with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98. If for any reason the Examiner considers otherwise, it is respectfully

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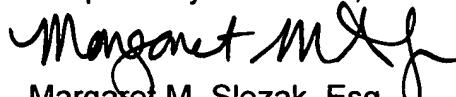
requested that the undersigned be contacted by the Examiner by telephone in order that any deficiencies may be expeditiously remedied.

The enclosed documents may have markings thereon. Applicant is not presently aware of the source of those markings, and no significance is meant to be attached thereto.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under 37 CFR 1.114. No certification or fee is believed to be required, however, should the Examiner determine that any fees are due in connection with this submission, please charge the same to Deposit Account No. 16-0221. A duplicate copy of this submission is enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

 12/22/2005  
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/623,884
Filing Date	07/21/2003
First Named Inventor	Rickey D. Hart
Art Unit	3731
Examiner Name	Michael H. Thaler

Attorney Docket Number INNO-4 CON 8

**U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )			
1	US- 2,416,260		02-18-1947	Karle	
2	US- 2,541,246		02-13-1951	Held	
3	US- 3,877,434		04-15-1975	Ferguson et al.	
4	US- 3,967,625		07-06-1976	Yoon	
5	US- 4,393,872		07-19-1983	Reznik et al.	
6	US- 4,493,319		01-15-1985	Polk et al.	
7	US- 4,779,616		10-25-1988	Johnson	
8	US- 4,898,155		02-06-1990	Ovil et al.	
9	US- 4,901,721		02-20-1990	Hakki	
10	US- 4,927,428		05-22-1990	Richards	
11	US- 4,957,498		09-18-1990	Caspari et al.	
12	US- 4,994,079		02-19-1991	Genese et al.	
13	US- 5,108,406		04-28-1992	Lee	
14	US- 5,222,973		06-29-1993	Sharpe et al.	
15	US- 5,209,747		05-11-1993	Knoepfler	
16	US- 5,222,977		06-29-1993	Esser	
17	US- 5,226,908		07-13-1993	Yoon	
18	US- 3,989,049		11-02-1976	Yoon	
	US-				

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> -Number <sup>4</sup> -Kind Code <sup>5</sup> ( <i>if known</i> )				
19	WO 91/02493 A1		03-07-1991	Raychem Corp		
20	WO 91/17712		11-28-1991	Wilk et al.		

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.